

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner states that the amendment to claim 6 submitted by way of the Response dated 15 June 2001 is improper, because the “marked up” version of the amendment merely replaced the word “number” in the phrase “by number” with --weight-- without properly indicating the deletion of the word “number” by brackets and the insertion of the word --weight-- by underlining, or by any equivalent marking system. The Examiner requests that claim 6 be rewritten as a new claim with a new claim number in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121 and that the dependence of the remaining claims be corrected as necessary.

In response, Applicants herein cancel claim 6 and insert newly added claim 12 which properly recites the subject matter of original claim 6. Also, claim 7, which previously depended from original claim 6, is herein canceled and claim 13 is newly added as reciting the subject matter of the original claim 7 and as depending from newly added claim 12 to preserve the original dependency.

Support for the amendment is found in the originally filed claims and specification. No new matter has been introduced. Accordingly, the Examiner’s concerns have been completely addressed.

It is believed that the amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action. Thus, Applicants respectfully request consideration and entry of the amendment.

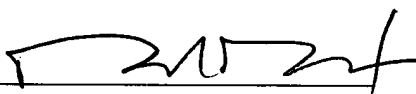


The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorneys at the below-listed phone number regarding this response with amendment and remarks or otherwise concerning this application.

If there are any additional charges due with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
TOMOMI OSHIBA, ET AL.

CANTOR COLBURN LLP
Applicants' Attorneys

By: 

Daniel F. Drexler
Registration No. 47,535
Customer No. 23413

Date: September 21, 2001
Address: 55 Griffin Road South, Bloomfield, CT 06002
Telephone: 860-286-2929